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### The Fear of (Public) Art

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Trey Hock  
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## The Fear of (Public) Art

- Rebecca Hackemann, Kansas State University
- Trey Hock, Kansas City Art Institute
- Jason Zeh, University of Kansas

### Summary / Abstract:

Art and Public Art continues to be banned and destroyed, installed and taken down, argued about for long periods by different stake holders. This is evidence of the power of art to unsettle, to speak truth to power, to question our cherished cultural norms, our democracy and various basic American principles. When art is installed in public space, space that is not privately owned, and paid for with tax money it can become a contentious issue. Yet it can also lead to economic regeneration of towns and cities, as much research on the creative class and creative cities attests to. Join artists and scholars to discuss the power of art and the importance of advocating for art, artists, and freedom of expression. What can public art bring to your town - and can your town handle it? As David Freedberg writes: "Those people who seek to destroy art...testify to its very power... they acknowledge that works of art... enter our deepest feelings and rouse our deepest emotions."

### Sources for presentation:

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Kimmelman, M. (January 3, 2018) "On Democracy and Public Spaces" reSITE recording (40:47 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6uAL-eU5hg>

Spenser, L. (April 10, 2015). "Controversial Public Artwork Back on Display in Downtown Kansas City". <https://www.kcur.org/post/controversial-public-artwork-back-display-downtown-kansas-city#stream/0>

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Museum of the City of New York (May 16, 2018). "Love it or hate it: Public Art and Controversy". YouTube posting of panel event (1:04:01 hours)

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